



**Testimony of Commissioner Mark D. Boughton – Senior Advisor to the Governor for Infrastructure**  
**Appropriations Committee**  
**Thursday, March 3, 2022**

## **IN OPPOSITION**

**Raised Bill No. 106**, *AN ACT CONCERNING LEGISLATIVE OVERSIGHT AND APPROVAL FOR THE EXPENDITURE OF FEDERAL TRANSPORTATION INFRASTRUCTURE FUNDING*.

Good afternoon, Senator Osten, Representative Walker, Senator Miner, Representative France, and honorable members of the Appropriations Committee. Thank you for the opportunity to speak in reference to **Raised Bill No. 106**.

Comprising 375 unique programs administered by 12 federal agencies, the bipartisan Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA) is historic in its breadth. Many of the IIJA programs have existed for decades and have robust structures and processes in place with a long track record of successfully administering funds. Others are competitive grants, and the White House has advised states to “hit the ground running”<sup>1</sup> to maximize our chances of receiving awards. All the programs – existing, new, competitive, and formula – will be accompanied by extensive, detailed and highly technical guidance that govern eligible uses of funds. If IIJA is to truly transform Connecticut, we must be able to design projects that fit squarely within those guidelines, and on the tight timelines imposed by federal agencies. For the reasons Commissioners Giulietti, Juthani, and Dykes explain in more detail, I have deep reservations regarding the proposed legislation. This proposed process creates significant risk that Connecticut will miss out on transformative funding due to conflicting state and federal requirements or late or ineligible applications.

This administration is deeply committed to providing transparency and soliciting community input throughout IIJA’s implementation. Federal and state laws tailored to each program already require public engagement and frequent reporting, and we will work with you on how best to meet or exceed those requirements without jeopardizing the efficient delivery of infrastructure projects. As the governor’s senior advisor for infrastructure, a critical component of my position will be to help our outstanding commissioners ensure that members of the General Assembly and stakeholders across the state are aware of funding opportunities and ongoing developments. I have met with legislators, municipal leaders, and trade associations and will continue to do so at your convenience. I hope to work arm-in-arm with you on the rollout of these funds to maximize their impact on Connecticut’s residents. Additionally, the administration will be deploying a website that will provide up-to-date information and complete transparency by detailing all ongoing IIJA initiatives, as well as a regular cadence of discussion and involvement from the legislature and its members.

In closing, we have been diligently working for months to ensure that Connecticut is ready for each and every funding opportunity included in IIJA, and is well positioned for competitive processes. The sprawling and complex structure of IIJA means that we cannot earmark these funds. Doing so would cripple the success of the 5-year initiative. Instead, let’s work together to maximize this historic opportunity for Connecticut.

Thank you for your time and consideration of our concerns. We respectfully ask for further consideration and evaluation of the proposed **Raised Bill No. 106**.

Along with my colleagues, I would be happy to answer any questions from committee members.

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<sup>1</sup> A Guidebook to the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law for State, Local, Tribal, and Territorial Governments, and other Partners.  
[https://www.whitehouse.gov/wp-content/uploads/2022/01/BUILDING-A-BETTER-AMERICA\\_FINAL.pdf](https://www.whitehouse.gov/wp-content/uploads/2022/01/BUILDING-A-BETTER-AMERICA_FINAL.pdf)